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there was a decrease in travelling allowance. The position in other districts is not complicated by this special feature."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know why this increased allowance was allowed in Malabar and whether the reasons which induced the Government to grant this allowance have ceased to exist? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" It was given long ago. The question of reduction in travelling allowance was not raised in this House, I think, because there was sufficient justification for the reduction. Of course, everybody wants to get a little more and as I said, we will be willing to give provided there are funds."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" സാർ, മററു ജില്ലകളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു മലബാറിലെ ജീവിതച്ചെലവു വളരെയധികം വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കകൊണ്ടു് കുറച്ച അലവൻസു് വീണ്ടും നികത്തിക്കൊടുക്കാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്നു മടിയുണ്ടാകുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The ground alleged is that the cost of living is higher in Malabar. It will not be difficult for other people also to raise their cost of living and ask for more."

Quality of rice supplied to Malabar.

* 115 *Q*.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Commissioner of Civil Supplies visited Malabar in January 1954;

(*b*) whether he enquired into the complaints made on the floor of the Assembly regarding the quality of rice supplied in Malabar;

(*c*) if the answers to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative the result of the enquiry;

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of his report on the table of the House; and

(*e*) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) The Commissioner of Civil Supplies inspected the quality of the stocks of rice issued through the ration shops and in the godowns of the societies in Tellicherry and Kuttuparamba taluks and issued orders to the Collector of Malabar to arrange immediately to clean and down grade into second sort the stocks of rice which were found to be below the standard and then only issue the rice through the ration shops.

" (*d*) No special report was submitted to Government. The information given in reply to part (*c*) of the question is derived from tour notes recorded by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies.

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" (*e*) As the Commissioner had already taken such action as was necessary and practicable Government did not take any further action."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Did not the Commissioner of Civil Supplies inspect the rice stock in Palghat from where complaints have mainly come to the Government? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" He did not inspect the godowns there. But he inspected the various ration shops in Palghat and the quality of rice issued through those ration shops."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The Hon. Minister said that godowns in two taluks were inspected. But may I give the Hon. Minister the correct information that both these firkas are in one and the same taluk—Kottayam taluk—and not in two taluks? Will he be pleased to say why the shops in one taluk alone were inspected and not the shops in other taluks, especially when there were complaints about various societies in Chirakkal and other taluks of Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The other places also were inspected. I am prepared to give the tour notes of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to hon. Members. They will find that he made widespread inspection throughout Malabar and issued instructions, as a result of which stocks which were deteriorated in quality were cleaned and down-graded, if necessary, and stocks which were unfit for consumption were withdrawn from circulation. Whatever action was necessary was taken by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and the Government subsequently ratified that action."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The Hon. Minister said that the Civil Supplies Commissioner inspected the stock of Tellicherry Society and found it bad. Is it not a fact that the rice got from Coorg recently allotted to the same society is the stock that was refused by the Travancore-Cochin State on account of its bad quality? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The Travancore-Cochin State refused that rice not on account of its bad quality. They wanted a little more polishing; that is all. Conditions have now been imposed and we have specified the standard which we expect. Unless that standard is supplied, we will not receive the rice from Coorg. Necessary action is being taken to see that good quality rice is got from Coorg."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE.—" May I know whether the Commissioner of Civil Supplies during his inspection tour inspected the godowns in Walluvanad taluk, particularly in Perintalmanna centre, and whether the Government are aware

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that even after his inspection and issue of instructions, bad quality rice is being supplied through the ration shops under the Perintalmanna Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Society?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"I have gone through the report, but I do not exactly remember whether the particular godowns mentioned by the hon. Member were inspected. But from the latter part of the question, I understand that the hon. Member is aware that the Commissioner of Civil Supplies inspected those godowns. His complaint seems to be that even after the inspection, bad quality rice is being issued. I will look into the matter."

10-20 a.m. SRI A. APPU :—"May I know what was wrong with the rice that was considered to be bad by the Commissioner and how it was purified?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"Sir, the main complaint was about colour as it was red Orissa rice. It has been ordered that it should be polished before issue. Another complaint is that in certain places due to long storage, the quality of rice has deteriorated to a certain extent. That is why we have ordered that it should be cleaned and if necessary, downgraded to II sort rice."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—"Is the Hon. the Minister for Food aware that the rice supplied in some places is not fit for human consumption and as a matter of fact Tellicherry Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Society has sent a memorandum to the Government on the matter? In view of this, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of supplying good rice to this society?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"We are making every effort and attempt to get the best rice available from outside. But unfortunately beggars cannot be choosers. When we approach other States for rice, we have to a certain extent, accept whatever is available and it is not possible to bargain with them always to get very good rice from them. However, I may assure the hon. Members that we are trying our best to see that no bad quality rice is pushed on our shoulders."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—"On a point of order, the Hon. Minister for Food said that beggars cannot be choosers. We are paying for the rice that we get from outside. That being the case, he cannot say that we are beggars."

MR. SPEAKER :—"It is not a point of order."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—"In view of the deteriorating quality of raw rice and in view of the fact that the people of Malabar are used to boiled rice, will the Government be pleased to make par-boiled rice available to the people of Malabar rather than raw rice?"

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E THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am very well aware that some sections of the people, a majority of them, prefer par-boiled rice. But, unfortunately, when we get rice from outside, we cannot insist on par-boiled rice. I would request the hon. Member to do propaganda that raw rice is as good as par-boiled rice. It is all a question of habit and if only we get accustomed to raw rice, we would not like to go back to par-boiled rice. I am sure such small adjustments in habits could be made. In times of scarcity, when we have to import rice from outside, it should be possible to make at least some small adjustments in our habits."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We have covered only a small number of questions till now. There are a number of questions on to-day's agenda yet to be covered. I want to dispose of the rest of the questions quickly."

Supply of electricity to rural areas.

* 116 *Q.*—SRI A. K. SUBBIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of villages to which supply of electricity was extended in the year 1952–53?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" During 1952–53 electricity was extended to 206 villages in this State (excluding the villages now forming part of the Andhra State)."

SRI A K. SUBBIAH :—" மின்சார விஸ்தரிப்பு சம்பந்தமாக சாக்கா ரால், 1952-53-ல் எவ்வளவு ரூபாய் செலவழிக்கப்பட்டது ?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is a very general question and I want time to answer it."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" நமது ராஜ்யத்தில் உற்பத்தியாகும் மின்சார சக்தியில் எவ்வளவு சதவிகிதம் விவசாயத்திற்காக 1952-53-ல் உபயோகிக்கப்பட்டது ? அது முந்திய வருஷத்தைவிட அதிகமா அல்லது குறைவா ?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have not got the figures ready on hand. I shall furnish them if the hon. Member puts a separate question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it a fact that in several rural areas where power is being distributed, the department is now refusing to extend electricity saying that the maximum loads of the transformers have been reached? If it is a fact, will the Government take steps to remove such handicaps? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The Government are already considering the difficulties in certain districts where the transformers are overloaded."

SRI G. GOVINDAN :—" 1952-53-ல் ராமனுதபுரம் ஜில்லா விவசாயிகளுக்கு, மின்சாரவசதி விஸ்தரிப்பு வசதிக்காக எவ்வளவு பணம் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டது என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்வார்களா ?"